

Appl. No. 10/520,109
Amdt. dated May 21, 2008
Reply to Examiner's Ans. of Mar. 21, 2008

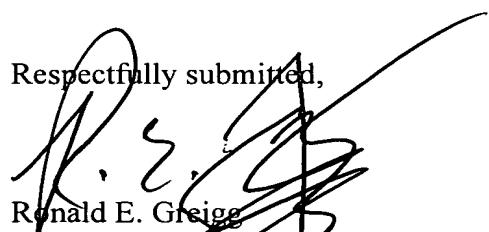
REMARKS

Claims 20-22, 24-29 and 31-41 are presently in the application. Claims 23 and 30 were previously canceled.

37 CFR 41.33(b)(2) provides that amendments filed on or after the date of filing the appellant's appeal brief may be admitted to rewrite dependent claims into independent form. In the "Status of Claims" found on page 2 of the Examiner's Answer mailed on March 21, 2008, the examiner indicates that claims 24-29 and 40 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form. This is the first indication that claims 24-29 and 40 contain allowable subject matter. Thus, this amendment was necessitated by the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for the first time in the Examiner's Answer.

The only change made by the present amendment is to present claim 40 in independent form. In rewriting claim 40 in independent form, all limitations of the base claim (claim 20) have been incorporated into claim 40.

Entry of the amendment and allowance of claims 24-29 and 40 are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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